

Courier Wrong in Predicting Revolt?

Editorial on College Radio Criticizes 'Sensationalism'

The following was broadcast over WTSC and WNTC, college radio stations at Clarkson College March 13, prior to the student sit-in at the State University College at Potsdam, and repeated on March 14 and 15:

"Is a riot inevitable in Potsdam? Quote from a Courier-Freeman headline. "Students for Democratic Society not likely cause when revolt hits State University College at Potsdam. The following is a statement of concern by The Editorial Board of Intercollege Radio Network.

On March 6, 1969 the Potsdam Courier-Freeman published a front page article concerning a meeting of the Potsdam Village Board on March 3. The article describes a statement by Village Trustee William Harris expressing fears "that the cost of putting down any kind of student revolt at either of the

two campuses would put the village in deep financial trouble... Harris also is reported to have suggested that "A confrontation is coming closer and closer to Potsdam and that one cause may be a small group of radical students at the State University College at Potsdam. The article gives the impression that student rebellion is inevitable on one or both of the campuses.

We feel that both of these articles have done serious damage to relationships between college students and the Potsdam community. The Courier Freeman as the major newspaper in the community should be objective in reporting events in the community. In this instance, the paper has not been objective but rather has given rise to fears that the two campuses are ripe for revolt, which does not appear to be the case. nAy feel-

ings of unrest on campus will merely be aggravated by this type of article. In this sense, the Courier - Freeman should be accused of printing highly inflammatory material instead of responsibly reporting news. We of the editorial staff believe that the better alternative for such an influential source of local news could be to moderate and attempt to improve relations between the community and the colleges.

Sensationalism in news reporting has no place in Potsdam.

The preceding was an opinion of the I.C.R.N. Editorial Board and does not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of the Administration or students of Clarkson College of Technology or the the State University College at Potsdam.

The I.C.R.N. invites any responsible comment on this editorial.